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KAITLYN BRISTOWE, BRITT NILSSON SPEAK UP. PAGE 22

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Commuter hell. The Riders Alliance scoured the MTA this spring to collect hundreds of its passengers' worst experiences. The result: a book titled "Subway Horror Stories." Can you beat these tales of transit woe? PAGE 02

Scary subway stories

Members of the Riders Alliance camped out near Gov. Andrew Cuomo's New York City office Sunday to launch the book "Subway Horror Stories." / BESS ADLER, METRO

Art exhibit simulates police shooting

PAGE 08

Four need to know job tips for millennials

PAGE 24

Rangers seek more of the same in Game 2

PAGE 27

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2 'Metro Chief Digital Officer, Lotta Karlsson, named "Future Female Leader'"

3 '3 slamming champagne cocktails in NYC'

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The Riders Alliance launched its book "Subway Horror Stories" outside Gov. Andrew Cuomo's New York City office Sunday. / BESS ADLER, METRO

Oh, the horrors of the NYC subway system

Transit. Dissatisfied commuters collected some of the city's worst MTA tales for a book titled "Subway Horror Stories."

Rats on the tracks. A broken fibula. Missed job interviews, falling pipes and a 46-block walk home.

These are some of the 400 horror stories collected by Riders Alliance, the transit advocacy group who stalked busy subway stations in March and April, collecting stories from fed-up subway riders. The best of the best were compiled in a book called "Subway Horror Stories."

The group launched the book, which is dedicated to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, while camped on the sidewalk in front of his midtown office on Sunday. The riders staged a campfire scene, complete with what appeared to be papier-mache logs, flashlights and a dramatic reading of the tales of woe.

The group is hoping the stories compel Cuomo and the legislature to contribute more to the MTA's $32 billion, five-year Capital Program, which was passed despite a $15 billion funding gap. Transit advocates fear the average rider will have to pay for the funding gap through higher fares.

"I know all too well the dangers of not having a publicly funded mass transit system, because I get that lesson every day on the 7 train," said Brian Zumba, a Baruch College student and Riders Alliance member.

Zumba said during midterms week he added 30 minutes to his commute, but ended up getting stuck on the train during a signal malfunction, and wound up arriving 15 minutes late.

"We're essentially paying more and more for a less reliable service," Zumba said.

"I remember those times when broken down trains and delays were the norm," said Bonnie Nelson of Brooklyn, who has been riding mass transit since the 1960s. "One of the reasons why New York became the dysfunctional city in the '70s and the '80s was because we stopped investing in infrastructure like mass transit. I don't want to go back to those scary days and pay more for it."

By the numbers

2.6%

Numbers released by the MTA last month showed subway ridership grew by 2.6 percent in 2014, the largest increase in 65 years, with 1.751 billion people riding the trains. At the time, MTA Chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast said minor disruptions can mean major delays for the 6 million people riding the MTA every day.

$2.75

MetroCard fares increased to $2.75 a ride in March, and the MTA also raised train ticket and bridge tolls as part of "modest, predictable, regularly scheduled increases" that will in part fund the capital program.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Vermin

A rat in a pipe is not a comforting site. / GETTY IMAGES

A 'Horror Story'

"I am in the subway every morning at 4:45 a.m., and the rats in this subway station are so horrible that sometimes you can't even walk up and down the steps because the rats are on the steps to the platform," reads Tolani Adeboye, recounting a Manhattan woman's horror story in the book. "They get really close to people — it's disgusting and dangerous."

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Queens rapper Chinx killed in shooting

Chinx Drugz performs in concert during Hot 97 Summer Jam 2014 at MetLife Stadium on June 1, 2014, in East Rutherford City. / WIREIMAGE

Gunned down. Authorities are investigating a deadly shooting that left a Queens rapper dead.

Lionel "Chinx" Pickens, a rapper from Far Rockaway, was killed in a shooting early Sunday morning which left one other person critically injured, according to police.

The shooting happened just after 4 a.m. on Sunday morning at the corner of Queens Boulevard and 84th Drive.

WABC reported that the rapper was driving west on Queens Boulevard when a second car pulled up and opened fire into the car.

Pickens, 31, was taken to Jamaica Medical Center before being pronounced dead.

The biography on Pickens' website says: "Raised in Far Rockaway, he was surrounded by a level of poverty that drove people into drugs, the ghetto and the streets. While divulging into that lifestyle personally, music gave him an outlet to convey his experiences, his fears and his ambition."

"The rapper from Queens, New York, was a member of French Montana's Coke Boys," said the statement, "Chinx's dedication, humor and vision will always be remembered."

The investigation is ongoing, according to police. So far no arrests have been made.

NIDHI PRAKASH
@MetroNewYork
nidhi.prakash@metro.us

Quoted

"It is with a heavy heart that The Legion Media Group and 4 Kings Management announce the passing of Lionel "Chinx" Pickens [Sunday] morning. He was 31. Few details are available about his passing but his management confirmed his passing [Sunday] morning."

- Chinx's management at Legion Media Group in a statement released online.

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La Marqueta opens for the season

Vendy Plaza is back in business. For the second year in a row, the Street Vendor Project at the Urban Justice Center is back at La Marqueta in East Harlem on Sundays. From now until Sept. 9, 20 vendors each week will serve award-winning food, and visitors can enjoy live music and a beer garden. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Security

Bratton wants 450 more cops

NYPD Police Commissioner Bill Bratton wants more counterterrorism cops on patrol in the Big Apple, to protect the city from terrorist groups such as ISIS.

"I'm going to put another 450 police officers ... into our counterterrorism operations to increase the ability of our officers to protect critical sites around the city," Bratton said on John Catsimatidis' radio show on Sunday.

Bratton said there's an increased threat from ISIS on social media to attack police and government figures. "That threat has expanded significantly in the 16 months I've been police commissioner," he said.

The mayor's preliminary budget didn't include money for additional officers. METRO

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Caught on camera

Teen beaten in alleged gang attack on L train

Police are looking for a group of men who beat a teenager unconscious and stole his pants, sneakers and cellphone after first confronting him on the L train in Brooklyn.

The attack started around 3:27 p.m. on Friday on a southbound L train near the Broadway Junction station in East New York, when a group of five men questioned the 16-year-old victim about what gang he was in.

When the victim said he wasn't in a gang, the group started punching and kicking him, and pulled him off the train at the Atlantic Avenue stop, according to the NYPD, where they knocked him unconscious and stole his phone, sneakers and jeans before fleeing.

The teen was taken to Brookdale Hospital and treated for a concussion and severe eye injury.

A bystander captured the attack on video, and the Daily News reported that concerned commuters gave the teen water and consoled him after the attack. METRO

The video shows the group attack. / A SCREENSHOT OF THE VIDEO

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A patron at the "Hands up" exhibit at the Flux Factory in Queens participates in the interactive art show. / HUMAI MUSTAFA

Art exhibit simulates cop shooting

Controversial. The show "Hands Up" lets visitors experience a simulated death at the hands of the police.

In an exhibition space in Long Island City, patrons are invited to walk through a warehouse with police lights flashing.

Video plays on loop of Freddie Gray's arrest in Baltimore, and police shootings of Walter Scott in South Carolina and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

Eventually, a recording shouts, "This is the police! Put your hands in the air!" A motion sensor activates when guests put their hands in the air, and the sound of a gunshot rings out.

If you go

The installation is open until Tuesday night by appointment through Flux Factory, and Ateeq said they will be looking for other opportunities to put on the exhibit again for a longer period of time in the coming months.

The art installation, by artists Atif Ateeq and Roopa Vasudevan, opened over the weekend. It is intended to be thought-provoking, the artists told Metro.

"People do walk out feeling a little uncomfortable and disoriented, and that's the goal of the piece," said Ateeq. "When people came out there were definitely conversations they were having about it, exchanging how they felt about it with other people who had experienced it and just sharing their thoughts on it."

The head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association doesn't quite see it that way, the Daily News reports.

"This so-called 'art project' is based upon a lie and perpetuates a falsehood about police officers and their use of force," PBA President Patrick Lynch told the Daily News. "If art is supposed to enlighten and uplift, this piece of crap doesn't qualify."

Ateeq responded to Lynch's criticism: "We welcome him to come check out the exhibit himself and then tell us how he feels about it."

NIDHI PRAKASH
@MetroNewYork
nidhi.prakash@metro.us

The Foreman forecast

TOM FOREMAN

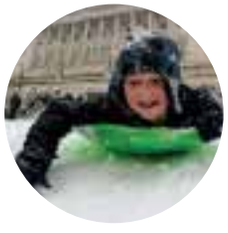
TOM FOREMAN PREDICTS THIS WEEK IN POLITICS. HE IS A CNN CORRESPONDENT AND AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK "MY YEAR OF RUNNING DANGEROUSLY: A DAD, A DAUGHTER, AND A RIDICULOUS PLAN."

ROGUE VOTES, ROBIN HOOD AND COOL RUNNINGS

Like an old couple packing for a trip, Congress has a lot to argue about before the Memorial Day break. They might want to start by explaining why they get a whole week off while the rest of us are lucky to snag a free day, but whether they do that or not, their agenda leads my list of three things to watch in politics this week.

1. Watching the detectives: Remember that NSA surveillance program that makes you wonder if someone is scooping up your metadata every time your phone clicks? The clock is running out for Congressional reauthorization, and Republicans are divided on whether they should just renew it, or ease up on the government collection of such info. Smart money says lawmakers will come up with a stop gap, and punt the debate further down the line. Congress will also be locking horns over the president's latest trade deal, and highway funding. Fun fact: The federal gas tax has not been raised for 22 years!

2. Mo' money
Keep an eye on Illinois, where the Democratic Speaker of the House is trotting out the latest version of a Robin Hood tax. He's suggesting rich folks like, oh say, the Republican governor, ought to pay a 3 percent surcharge on income over a million. Such a measure failed before, and this effort mainly appears aimed at putting pressure on the gov who wants budget cuts and pro-business legislation. Still, voters in the land of Lincoln seem to like it, so who knows?



Cool runnings:
And because Congress never seems to do anything in a timely fashion, among the matters up for discussion this week — officially and permanently lifting the ban on sledding on Capitol Hill. Ah well, at least they'll have a chance to pass it before global warming makes the matter moot.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

Wild weather

Central US hit by floods after tornadoes

Thunderstorms and floods battered several central U.S. states on Sunday after a series of tornadoes hit large parts of the area a day earlier, cutting power lines and damaging structures.

Parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee and Kansas were either under a flash flood watch or flash flood warning on Sunday morning as thunderstorms battered several central states, the National Weather Service said.

Parts of the town of Mosby, Missouri, with a population of about 200 people and located some 25 miles northeast of Kansas City, were being evacuated due to flooding on the Fishing River that has shut roads, the Clay County Sheriff's office said.

The flood warnings come after there were 29 reported tornadoes on Saturday that hit states ranging from Louisiana to Wyoming, the weather service said.

Texas and Oklahoma were the hardest hit but there were no reports on Sunday morning of major damage or deaths. Thousands were without power due to the storms.

"We haven't had any injuries reported as of this morning," Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Keli Cain said.

The damage in Oklahoma was mostly in the southwestern and northeastern parts of the state, she said. REUTERS

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Nepal earthquake death toll becomes highest on record

Fatalities. The death toll from the two quakes now stands at 8,583, the home ministry said.

A Nepalese woman carrying her child walks past a collapsed building in the village of Sankhu in Kathmandu, Nepal. / GETTY IMAGES

The number of people killed in Nepal by two major earthquakes has surpassed 8,500, making the disaster the deadliest to hit the Himalayan country on record, as rescuers on Sunday searched for dozens of people still missing in remote villages.

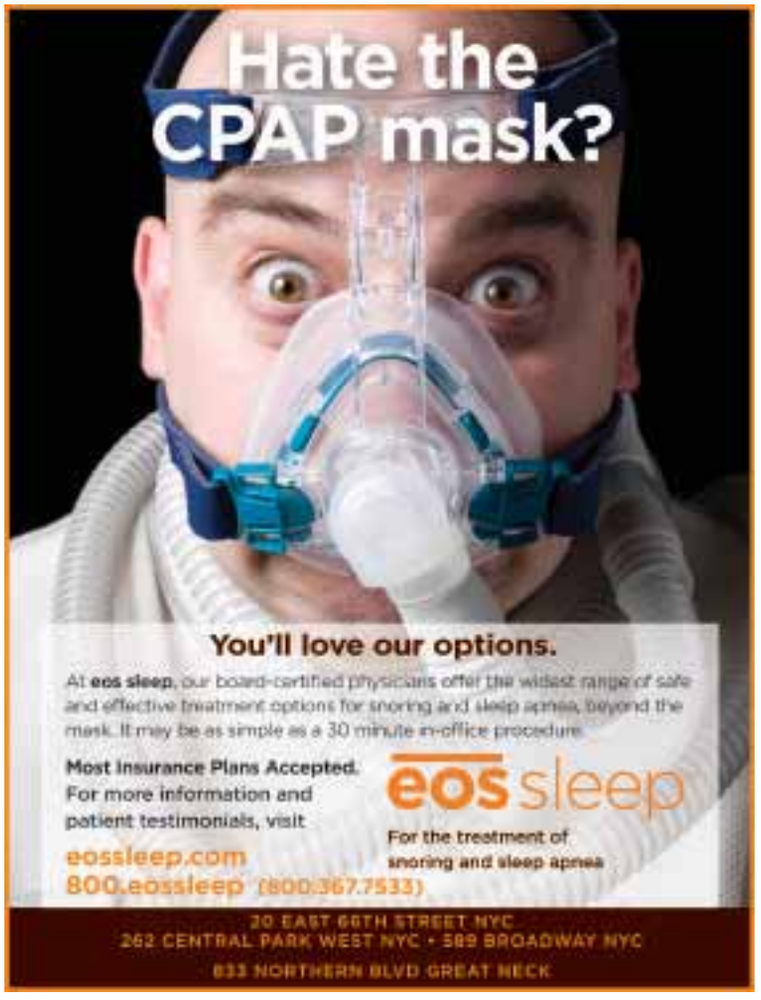
A 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal on April 25, killing thousands and demolishing more than half a million homes, most of them in rural areas cut off from emergency medical care.

A second major quake struck on Tuesday 76 kilometers (47 miles) east of the capital Kathmandu, just as Nepalis were beginning to recover from the previous earthquake.

The previous deadliest earthquake to strike the country — in 1934 — killed at least 8,519 in Nepal, as well as thousands more in neighboring India.

In Dolakha district east of Kathmandu, which was hit hardest by the second quake, dozens of landslides have blocked access to remote villages.

In the village of Singati, devastated by a landslide, dozens are still missing and rescue workers are yet to remove debris from all of the village to recover bodies, district officials said. REUTERS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Three things to know

1 Clintons earned at least $30M since beginning of 2014

Hillary and Bill Clinton have earned at least $30 million since January 2014, including more than $25 million for delivering about 100 speeches, according to a government filing.

Hillary Clinton, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016, has earned more than $5 million in royalties for her book, "Hard Choices," which was published in June, according to the form.

The Clintons' income puts them at the upper end of the top 0.1 percent of earners in the U.S. population, according to government data. REUTERS

2 Taiwanese student gored by bison in Yellowstone

A Taiwanese exchange student visiting Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming with her host family was gored by a bison while turning to have her picture taken, the National Park Service said Saturday.

The 16-year-old girl was hiking near the geyser Old Faithful when the family stopped to look at bison grazing near the trail.

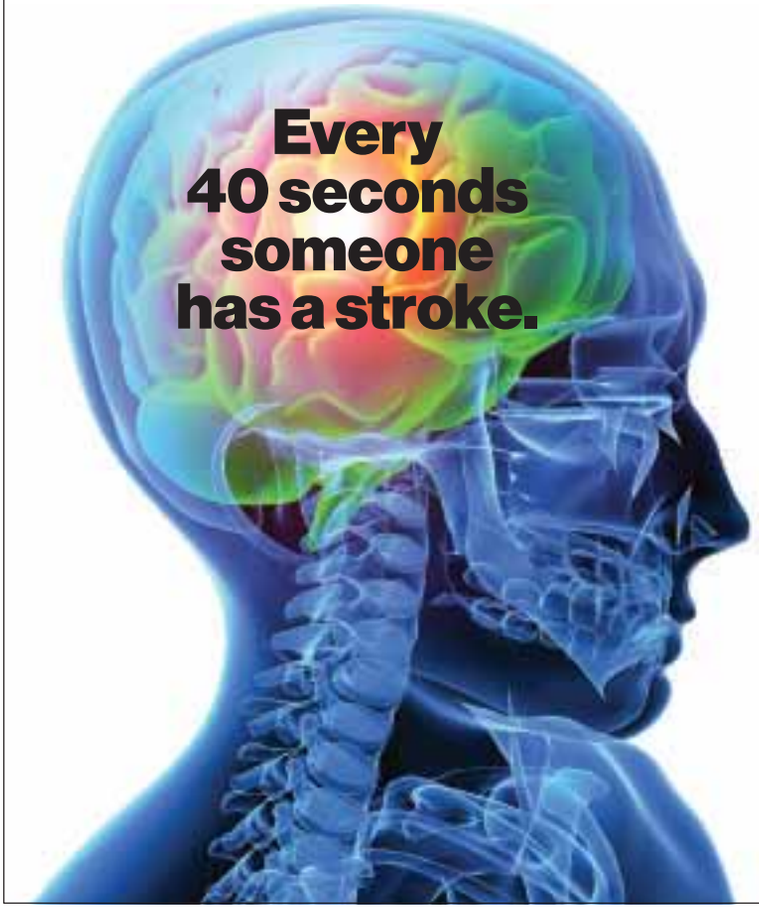
The group was just three to six feet away from the animals, the park service said, and when the girl turned her back on the bison to have her picture taken, one of them attacked, goring her in the buttocks. REUTERS

3 Notre Dame senior dies after falling from roof

21-year-old graduating senior at the University of Notre Dame died early on Saturday after falling from the roof of the school's sports arena in South Bend, Indiana.

The male student, who was a day away from graduating from the prestigious Catholic school, had gained access to the roof of the Joyce Center arena with a small group of students.

It was not immediately clear why the group had climbed onto the roof, which was slick from early morning precipitation, the university said. REUTERS



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Pope canonizes two Palestinian nuns

Ceremony. St. Peter's Square was decked with portraits of the Palestinians and two other newly sanctified nuns.

Palestinian faithful attend a canonization ceremony held by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Vatican. / GETTY IMAGES

Pope Francis named two Palestinian women as saints on Sunday, in a ceremony in St. Peter's Square just days after the Vatican formalized its de facto recognition of the State of Palestine.

The canonization of Sister Marie-Alphonsine Danil Ghattas, founder of the Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of Jerusalem, and Maryam Baouardy, who founded a Carmelite convent in Bethlehem, was not directly connected with the Vatican's Wednesday announcement of a new accord with the State of Palestine.

But the ceremony, attended by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and a delegation of senior clergy including the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, highlighted Pope Francis' drive to help embattled Christian communities in the Middle East.

In a statement as he departed for the Vatican last week, Twal said Ghattas and Baouardy, who entered religious orders as teenagers in the late 1800s and died in 1927 and 1878 respectively, were an example for Christians, Muslims and Jews.

"It is a sign of our modern time which suggests that we can talk about the three religions without any discrimination," the patriarch's statement said. REUTERS

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Why Aren't Doctors Telling About These Two Often

Two Advanced Medical Treatments Every Knee Arthritis Sufferer

by OsteoRelief Center

OsteoRelief Center is a medical clinic with locations in Mid-town NYC, Financial District NYC And north Jersey that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients since 2009.

Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. Including when and why you should consider each of these 2 treatment approaches to get maximum results.

If you suffer with knee arthritis pain, you have probably already tried many treatments ... especially countless pain medications.

Experienced doctors understand that, even though pain medications such as anti-inflammatory pain pills are part of the recommended early treatment plan for knee arthritis pain... they are rarely the answer.

In most cases they have minimal results (if any) and have a laundry list of potential side effects. Some being serious and even life threatening.

Are There Any Better Options?

Thankfully, advancements in science and technology come extremely fast. And now there are two very good options for knee arthritis to help relieve the pain.

Two options that a lot of knee arthritis sufferers have never heard of.

Before we get into the two treatments, please understand this...

OsteoRelief Center is a REAL medical clinic that has treated thousands of knee arthritis sufferers. Patients travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their clinics because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover are two REAL medical treatments. Not miracle cures you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: <u>There is no cure for arthritis.</u> But there are these two treatments that have already helped thousands of knee arthritis sufferers - possibly just like you.

The first treatment is more common than the second. Even if you have heard of this treatment - or even tried it without good results - please read this. You will find out why it may not have worked for you and how you may be able to get much better results.

#1 Viscosupplementation

Viscosupplementation has gained quite a bit of popularity in recent years and it has gotten mixed results for a couple of reasons.

But before we get into that, here's what you need to know about viscosupplementation.

When you have arthritis, you suffer a decrease in the lubrication fluids in your knee.

In other words, your knee joints basically "dries up."

The lubricating fluid that decreases is called "synovial fluid."

Pharmaceutical companies (with the help of scientists) can now make natural synovial fluid gel-like compounds that, during viscosupplementation, treatments... doctors can precisely introduce directly into the knee and other joints.

This helps replace the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - allowing it to move more freely and smoothly and often decreasing or even eliminating the pain.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. But many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years... or even permanently cancel it.

But There Is A BIG Problem

The key is the treatment must be EXTREMELY PRECISE. If the injection is slightly off, the medication will not get into the knee joint and the treatment will not work.

That's why the experts at OsteoRelief Center use advanced digital imaging so they can see the medicine going directly into the knee joint during the treatment.

Research shows that doctors performing joint injections without imaging miss the joint as much as 30% of the time.

If you have tried viscosupplementation without this special digital imaging without good results - this may be why.

That's why OsteoRelief Center takes it even one step further. They do not just use one step process of advanced imaging during treatment - they use two in their "double confirmation" process. This is to ensure patients get the best possible results.

Another Important Factor

Viscosupplementation medications also come in several different brands and chemical make-ups. Just like all medications, some people respond better to some than others. While many doctors only use one brand, the experts at Osteorelief Center use several and great effort is taken to figure out what the best one for YOU is.

One last thing: The experts at OsteoRelief Center have found that the earlier you start Viscosupplementation the better.

This is most likely because the longer you wait - the more joint destruction takes place.

That's why OsteoRelief is now seeing so many patients as young as 45.

Summary: If you have knee arthritis pain and have not tried Viscosupplementation, you should look into it as soon as possible.

If you have tried it without good results, you may still be able to get great results with the proper imaging and specific medication.

What Should You Do If Viscosupplementation Fails?

When conservative treatment, including visco supplementation fail... most knee arthritis sufferers believe their only option is total knee replacement surgery.

This is not true... and here is why

There is another treatment for serious knee arthritis pain most people (and even doctors) do not know about.

#2 Radiofrequency Neurotomy

This treatment is called, "RadiofrequncyNeurotomy." RF for short

RF is a procedure that is based on the theory that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

Several branches of nerves that surround the knee are known as "genicular nerves."

Radiofrequncy waves are delivered to the genicular nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves

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Knee Arthritis Sufferers Successful Treatments?

Needs To Know - Before Or After Knee Replacement Surgery

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "G Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, Genicular Neurotomy (G - RF) is performed for long term relief.

Is It Safe?

Research has shown this procedure to be safe and effective.

One study published November 4, 2010 in the journal Pain found that RF treated subjects on average "achieved at least 50% knee pain relief at 1, 4 and 12 weeks, respectively. No patient reported a postprocedure adverse event during the follow-up period. RF neurotomy of genicular nerves leads to significant pain reduction and functional improvement in a subset of elderly chronic knee OA pain, and thus may be an effective treatment in such cases."

It should also be mentioned that, like all research, more studies should be done to get even more answers.

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti-inflammatory pain medication and viscosupplementation do not offer good enough results.

RF can be utilized before resorting to total knee replacement. RF allows many patients to avoid knee replacement surgery.

RF has also been found effective AFTER knee replacement surgery when the patient still feels pain.

The pain after a failed knee replacement surgery can be debilitating and this procedure can be the only thing that helps and give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

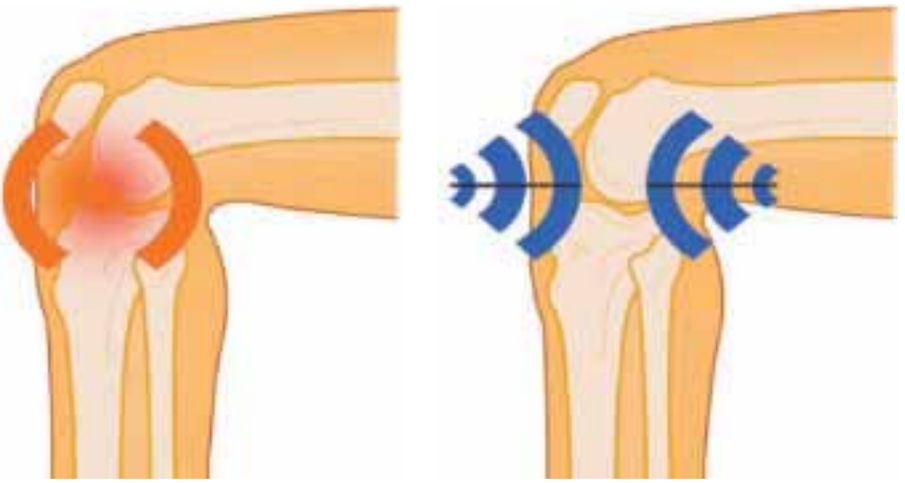
Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof.

This way, the doctors working on your case can give you a proper examination and advise the best possible treatment plan for your individual case.

Several experts work as a team to offer you the best treatment options at the appropriate time to maximize results. It is also very convenient to have all your doctors and treatments in one place. Traveling to different offices can be time consuming and and even more expensive.

OsteoRelief Center believes this "X" factor is one of the reasons so many knee arthritis sufferers travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their advanced medical clinics.

Advanced Treatment Uses Radio Frequencies To Relieve Knee Arthritis Pain



Science rescues knee arthritis sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many.

Your Invitation

OsteoRelief Center offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at OsteoRelief Center.

If you would like a complimentary screening, just call 800-227-KNEE(5633) and tell the scheduling expert who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary knee arthritis screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Elizabeth Hurley is taking it easy, Billy Eichner is just being honest, Carrie Fisher is looking for advice and Sarah Silverman is not ashamed.

@ElizabethHurley
Breakfast in bed with the newspapers. Not complaining.

@billyeichner
Uber surge pricing makes me horny

@carrieffisher
Does anyone here recommend sleeping? (As a late nite snack or pet?)

@SarahKSilverman
I eat butter.

1

EW, NO. JUST ... NO.

Alan Thicke is grossing everyone out, including his son

This should completely ruin any "Growing Pains" rerun viewings you had planned. Alan Thicke and wife Tanya Callau revealed to Us Weekly that they like to get it on to the music of Alan's son, Robin Thicke. "When we do get freaky, we love [Robin's song] 'Sex Therapy,'" Callau explains. "You have to admit, it's a great song to get in the mood." And if you think you're grossed out by that, imagine how Robin feels. Actually, you don't have to, since the singer made his feelings on the subject perfectly clear. "Dad, I heard what you said," he posted to Twitter. "I need you to give back all of my music. Immediately." That's no way to treat your biggest fan, Robin!

2

That's just, like, your opinion, Cannes.

Cannes, y'all are being real negative

Matthew McConaughey's latest work in director Gus Van Sant's "Sea of Trees" was greeted by not-very-friendly boos and jeering during its debut screenings at the Cannes Film Festival, which would totally bum out most stars. But McConaughey isn't most stars. The chilled Texan is taking the bad reviews in stride. "I liked the experience of making it and I'm glad we got the opportunity to introduce it to the world," he said during the film's press conference. "Anyone has any right to either boo or ovate." All right, all right, all right?

3

Gina Rodriguez's awesome body image outlook

Get it, girl.

"Jane the Virgin" star Gina Rodriguez continues to establish herself as a delightful, refreshing presence on the celebrity scene, and her latest comments about beauty are only adding to that. "I did not wake up like this," she tells E! News of her red carpet looks. "But I do love what I look like when I do wake up in the morning. I have that balance to know that I'm comfortable in my skin the way God made me and then I'm also comfortable getting did and having fun and playing dress-up. It's very exciting. But also, we create body image. We're the ones who create. We decide. Just like we decide trends, just like we decide everything in this world."

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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4

FKA Twigs not pleased with all this attention

Being engaged to Robert Pattinson is apparently terrible. Or at least the media attention and elevated profile parts of it are, according to singer FKA Twigs, who opened up to The New York Times about how her life has changed since shacking up with the "Twilight" star. "It's really hard. I can't begin to explain how awful it is. It makes you want to just stop everything sometimes. It makes you want to smash your face into the mirror," she says. "But it's worth it. I'm so happy." Still, maybe stay away from mirrors for the time being?

Please respect her privacy. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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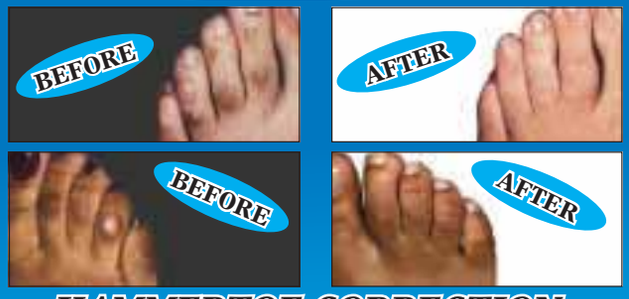

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Girls whoop One Direction's butts at dodgeball

James Corden had British pals One Direction on his show recently, so he used the opportunity to get some gym time in, pitting the foursome against a formidable all-girl dodgeball team. And it did not end well. The lads gave it their all, but that just wasn't enough. Maybe it's Corden's coaching methods, who knows. At least the tank top uniforms offer a great look at how out-of-control their penchant for prison tattoos has gotten, so there's that.

@THE LATELATESHOWWITHJAMESCORDEN / YOUTUBE

Next stop, Burning Man

Interview. "Pitch Perfect 2" star Brittany Snow finds the funny in having a nervous breakdown.

Brittany Snow (second from left) hangs with the gals in "Pitch Perfect 2." / RICHARD CARTWRIGHT

GETTY IMA

The girls from "Pitch Perfect" are back, and if you think that Brittany Snow's character, Chloe, should have graduated by now, you're not wrong. For Snow, that meant playing a character pretending to be dumb enough not to graduate — all for the sake of a cappella.

Exactly how many years has your character been in college now?
Um … she was a sophomore in the first one, so she's failed, I think, now three times? Yeah. She just loves being a Bella, and she just can't give it up. They wanted her to still be involved and unable to let go, and because she's had to stay in school to be a Bella, she has to progressively get more and more dumb.

How do you approach playing a character who is intentionally trying to seem dumb?
The way to play that is to make her not dumb. She believes wholeheartedly everything that she's saying, and she really passionately cares about these girls and this legacy. You see that in the first one, and you definitely see that in this one, that she cares so much about this. It's her entire life. She's a very power-of-now sort of person, where she only sees what's in front of her, and she doesn't see that eventually you have to move on.

Speaking of, where do you see her going after she finally leaves college?
Because she's an extremist and she only does things to 100 percent, she probably would take it in the exact opposite way and really let go of everything. I just have this image of her being a hippie, just living in a commune or, like, in a field, going to Burning Man or something like that. Maybe she just takes it really too far.

But she would be, like, really into Burning Man, right?
She'd be really into Burning Man. She'd be doing all of the, you know, activities and everything at Burning Man. She'd probably be manning all the booths.

How did you find the right balance for the humor in this?
When we got the "Pitch Perfect 2" script, it was very edgy, and it was really pushing the envelope, and I was extremely excited because it really didn't shy away from all things funny, no matter what or who it offended. And a lot of that has been cut out because we couldn't make that movie with a PG-13 rating, and also we didn't want to offend everyone.

What sort of offensive stuff are we talking about?
My character was drunk a lot of the time and jumping in the pool and going a little bit crazy, and that got cut as well. Chloe's definitely still having a nervous breakdown, but she's not drunk — which is unfortunate, because I really liked playing that.

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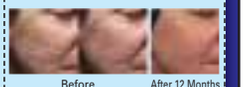

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Nicholas Hoult goes nuts

Nicholas Hoult looks odd in "Mad Max: Fury Road." / JASIN BOLAND, WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Interview. The "X-Men" and "Mad Max: Fury Road" star talks donning heavy makeup and going shirtless in the desert.

Nicholas Hoult is no stranger to excessive makeup. He's played a lovelorn zombie in "Warm Bodies," blue-furred Beast in the "X-Men" films, even a blond, sun-kissed coed in "A Single Man." But with "Mad Max: Fury Road," Hoult learned a whole new aspect of appearance-altering makeup: Sometimes it can be quite tasty.

This is probably the loudest movie I've seen in a while.
It was kind of like that on set as well because there were all these big engines surrounding you. You're sitting in a tin can of a car, and they'd start up these huge V8s or whatever, and you'd be like, "Boom, here we go." It also looked like it didn't necessarily smell very nice, that set. Depends on what you appreciate to smell. The smell of, like, burning gasoline, dry desert — and for me, glue and prosthetic makeup — is quite enjoyable. And flames and burning explosions. It's all quite visceral, adrenaline-pumping stuff.

Not stuff part of your usual daily life?
Surprisingly, no. [Laughs] But you have this makeup on and these costumes, and you're surrounded by these vehicles and very vivid sets, and you're on location with the dust and the sand and desert, and it kind of feels all very natural and real, and you get swept along by the moment.

You also don't get a lot of shirts in this movie.
Running low on shirts, my character. I do get to wear the original Mad Max jacket at one point.

HOULT, WITH HIS HAIR GROWN BACK
GETTY IMAGES

This is more of a cosmetic question, but did you actually shave your head for this?
Yeah, that's your job. And to be honest with you, transformation like that makes your job a lot easier. Partly because you feel different and also partly because people respond to you differently. In real life, I'm not a very scary presence.

But the chapped lips almost looked like skeleton's teeth.
They were quite fun because, you know when you have dry lips, and you enjoy, like, chewing on them and biting them? I essentially had an endless supply of that throughout the day. And the makeup guy is like, "Mate, we gotta stick that back down, add a new piece now because you've been nibbling on it all morning." We went over budget because I couldn't stop nibbling on my fake lips. [Laughs]

Did you make pitches for any razor sponsorships?
I didn't, but now that you mention it, oh, I should. I'm already doing the cars with Jaguar, so I've got that covered.

Do you get a Jaguar with that gig?
They loaned me one, yeah. They loaned me an F-Type. It's really cool. It's a damn cool, cool car.

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ned.ehrbar@metro.us

NOTIFICATION

Please be advised that **Dr. Vincent A. Cipollaro** has retired from practicing dermatology and has asked **Schweiger Dermatology, PLLC** ("Schweiger Dermatology"), a preeminent medical and cosmetic dermatology practice with 14 locations in New York to become the custodian of Dr. Cipollaro's charts.

We are also saddened to inform you that Dr. Cipollaro's colleague and friend, **Dr. Robert J. Rosado** – with an established dermatology practice at 121 E 60th Street, New York, NY 10022 – passed away unexpectedly on November 22, 2014. Schweiger Dermatology has become the custodian of Dr. Rosado's patient records as well.

If you have any questions, or are a prior patient of **Dr. Vincent A. Cipollaro** or **Dr. Robert J. Rosado** please contact Schweiger Dermatology at (212) 753-8278 for assistance.

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ANDRE 3000 BECOMES JIMI IN 'ALL IS BY MY SIDE'

Biopic

"All Is by My Side" gives Andre Benjamin great hair. / PROVIDED

'All Is by My Side'

Netflix Instant

There's every reason the Jimi Hendrix film "All Is by My Side" shouldn't exist. The guitar god's estate, historically stingy with allowing anyone to grant him a Great Man Biopic (though one with Paul Greengrass may happen after all), even denied the rights to noted author/screenwriter John Ridley ("12 Years a Slave"). That meant the film Ridley wrote and directed couldn't use any of his music, which meant he had to focus on his pre-fame life in London during the mid-1960s. Moreover, the man he cast as the young Hendrix, Andre Benjamin, was in his late 30s while filming. Thing is, "All Is by My Side" makes most of its severe limitations work in its favor. It's a renegade biopic, one that not only focuses on a tiny slither of a legend's life but tells it weirdly, too. There's little Psych 101 analysis of the young Hendrix, who comes off like a regular guy who just happens to have insane talents waiting to be tapped. Benjamin may not be a convincing 20-year-old, but he gets his mix of shyness and stealth charisma.

Criterion Collection

Marcello Mastroianni stars in "8 1/2." CRITERION COLLECTION

'8 1/2'

Hulu

Federico Fellini's revolutionary naval-gazer took the behind-the-scenes film, like "A Star is Born," and used it to delve into the imagination and neuroses of a filmmaker (Marcello Mastroianni) trying to follow up a hit, which was what Fellini himself was doing. The confessional aspect was a biggie but so was the play with fantasy; after this, the formerly more realist Fellini would go full tilt boogie phantasmagoric, never turning in something as grounded as the hit that helped birth "8 ½" and its many anxieties, "La Dolce Vita."

STREAM THIS
MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Foreign

'Winter Sleep'

Netflix Instant

Cannes is in full swing, and if you're reading this, you're probably not there. You could always catch up with last year's top-prize winner, which in effect requires binge watching. The latest from Turkish great Nuri Bilge Ceylan ("Climates," "Once Upon a Time in Anatolia") runs some three and a half hours, the bulk of it composed of lengthy arguments between a cranky hotelier and his younger wife or divorcee sister. It's the film equivalent of a sprawling, semi-hubristic lesser novel from a master, which is to say it's fun to stew in and greatly rewarding too.

Nuri Bilge Ceylan's Turkish drama "Winter Sleep" won the Palme d'Or at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. / PROVIDED

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A tale of two 'Bachelorettes'

Interview. Britt Nilsson and Kaitlyn Bristowe talk about their unusual new season of "The Bachelorette."

The producers of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" turned the world of reality dating upside down this spring with a big change to their process. Instead of just one woman being selected from the hopefuls on Chris Soules' season of "The Bachelor" to lead the show on "The Bachelorette," they chose two, Britt Nilsson and Kaitlyn Bristowe. The two women will meet with the men of "The Bachelorette" on Monday and Tuesday night, and eventually the men will vote on which woman will be this season's "Bachelorette." Here's what the ladies had to say about their shared show.

On whether they hesitated to do the show:
Britt Nilsson: It's a huge decision. I did take time to think about it. But overwhelmingly, I just felt like it was the right decision. I felt like it was the next step. And I saw love happening on the first season, and I felt like it was an amazing opportunity. So I wanted to weigh it out because it is such a big deal, but I felt like it was good from the beginning.
Kaitlyn Bristowe: It was definitely unexpected, and I was shocked. And yes — I was kind of just beside myself because I didn't know what to think. I wasn't excited about it, but I just really had to take a step back and think of the light at the end of the tunnel.

On whether there was any conflict between them:
Nilsson: You know what? It actually ended up being pretty cool that we were there. We were pretty good before, like we were hanging out toward the end of Chris' season. And Kaitlyn's amazing. So, there was a lot of moments where we would just kind of look at each other like, oh, my God. It was actually a little bit nice to have someone's support. And I'm glad it was Kaitlyn on the other side. We just laughed a lot.
Bristowe: To be honest, it felt like it took the pressure off a little bit, which is a weird thing to say, because I think there's more pressure on the guys, like who do they go to first, and they don't even know us. And so I feel like it's just the pressure off us and more pressure on the guys.

Watch the not at all awkward two-night premiere of "The Bachelorette" beginning Monday at 9 p.m. on ABC. /RICK ROWELL, ABC

On the topic of whether or not the setup is sexist:
Nilsson: When they told me there were two [of us], I didn't see it as sexist or degrading at all. I mean, I didn't think it had to do with us being women. I just thought that they couldn't decide, so there were two. I know they've done that for men as well in a previous season. So, I didn't see it as degrading. I honestly thought of it as a compliment, like we're both so great. I like Kaitlyn a lot, so being put on the same level with her — I was like, I get it. And it's interesting. It's more like how a real relationship would unfold, where you're choosing each other.
Bristowe: I wouldn't have done it if I thought it was the most degrading thing in the world. In the "Bachelor" and "Bachelorette" world, at what point do you say, "It's crazy to do that?" I think it was just a little twist and turn that they decided to do. And I just think the main thing we all have to think about was the end result and finding one person.

CRAIG SJODIN

Love at second sight

On whether they'd hold it against men who voted for the other bachelorette

Nilsson: I've dated a bunch of people, right? And obviously, not every single one has worked out. So I don't think that's a deal breaker. It would definitely be a consideration. It would be something I would be aware of. But no, I don't think it's a deal breaker at all. I think that actually Kaitlyn and I are fairly similar, and I understand why a guy would like Kaitlyn. So, that doesn't turn me off at all.
Bristowe: No, not at all. They're put in a tough position where they barely know these two women, and they have a short amount of time to even just sit down and chat before somebody else comes to steal us away. If somebody voted for Britt and then continued to stay, if it was me, then I don't know. I would have a better chance to get to know that person, and I wouldn't hold it against him. Britt's lovely.

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@LisaWeidenfeld
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

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Who needs Google Maps?

Arnav Patra, who represented New York in last week's National Geographic Bee, is way smarter than you.

RAQUEL LANERI
RaquelLaneri
raquel.laneri@metro.us

Last week, 12-year-old Arnav Patra represented New York at the 27th annual National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C. Fifty-four of the nation's top geography students, ranging from fifth to eighth grade, competed for a $50,000 scholarship and a trip to the Galapagos Islands by answering questions about places most of us adults have never even heard of. We caught up with Patra, who lives near Buffalo, as he was about to pack for Washington.

You must be a pro at studying — any tips?
Read various sources. At the last minute, I like to read maps several times over — sometimes that helps.

If you could travel to any place in the world, where would you go?
Antarctica. I wouldn't go there for the weather, but I'd go for the fact that not too many people go there, and it's sort of untouched.

Arnav Patra PROVIDED

What are your other interests?
I like to swim. I like to play tennis. I like to read. I enjoy music — I sing and play the cello.

What do you love about geography?
I love that it connects the entire world.

Watch the final round of the National Geographic Bee on Nat Geo WILD on Wednesday, May 20, at 7 p.m.

Pop quiz

Are you smarter than a 12-year-old?

Think you have what it takes to be a National Geographic Bee champion? Test your smarts with these examples from last year's competition.

1 The Mojave National Preserve is located in a desert region in which state: California or Mississippi?

2 Brisbane and Perth are port cities on which continent?

3 Pashto and Dari are major languages in a landlocked Asian country that borders Pakistan. Name this country.

4 Cenotes, or sinkholes such as those found on the Yucatan Peninsula, are associated with which rock: basalt or limestone?

5 Because Earth bulges at the Equator, the point that is farthest from Earth's center is the summit of a peak in Ecuador. Name this peak.

Answers: 1) California 2) Australia 3) Afghanistan 4) limestone 5) Chimborazo

Four things millennials do wrong when job hunting

The (totally fixable) reasons you may not be landing that dream job.

MARIANNE HAYES
@metronewyork
letters@metro.us

If you're itching to get out of your current role and into something better, you'll never land a new gig unless you tackle your job hunt the right way. According to millennial career coach Ashley Stahl, most Gen Y-ers are guilty of the following mistakes.

They overshare on their résumés

"This is probably the most transformational tip I could offer," says Stahl, adding that the way you talk about yourself on your résumé may very well be holding you back.

"There's no need to share about the aspects of your job that aren't relevant to where you're going," says Stahl, adding that it should only be one page long.

They don't have their elevator pitch ready

When a potential new employer asks you to tell them about yourself, what would you say?

"Before you even step foot in the interview, have a well-polished, well-thought-out elevator pitch about yourself," says Stahl.

If a potential new employer asks you to tell them about yourself, don't catch yourself stammering. ISTOCK

According to Stahl, tons of recruiters and headhunters have told her that they can't believe how many interviewees have given this no thought whatsoever. The bottom line is that you should be able to talk about yourself — not just your work experience — with confidence and polish.

They ask why they didn't get the gig

Many millennials don't shy away from asking an employer why they didn't get an offer. It may seem like a proactive move, but it usually rubs employers the wrong way, wrecking your odds of getting a call if another position opens up.

Similarly, Stahl says that many Gen Y-ers will call hiring managers to make sure they received their job application.

"The reality is that the hiring manager probably has already gotten your résumé, and if you call, and they unexpectedly end up on the phone with you, it puts them on the spot and kind of feels like you're demanding a job interview."

Instead, follow up via email. It shows that you're taking initiative without being aggressive.

Mastering the art of the cold call

"Get clear about who's out there doing the jobs you want to do, and who's hiring for those jobs," Stahl says. "Shoot them a cold email and ask for a cup of coffee or a phone call. And come from a place of interest and excitement for what they do."

They network all wrong

Eighty percent of job openings actually aren't posted. "It's necessary for you to get up, get out and master the art of cold networking," advises Stahl.

Being a masterful networker ultimately means having job security. If you know how to talk to people in a way that creates opportunities, Stahl says you're always just a phone call or email away from your next job.

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What's your college major really worth?

If you want to make a ton of money, study engineering.

A new study compiled by Georgetown University professor Anthony Carnevale and his team at Georgetown's Center on Education and the Workforce finds that the spread between the highest-earning and the lowest-earning major is a whopping $3.4 million in lifetime wages. Reuters recently chatted with Carnevale about what students need to know as they mull over college majors.

When students think about college, what do they usually get wrong?
In the American mind, the goal is to just go to college and get a degree,

"Your major is important, but it's not your destiny," says Carnevale. ISTOCK

but … in economic terms, that is not what the game is about. The difference in the value of college degrees is enormous.

What are among the highest-earning majors?
Engineering degrees. … In particular, petroleum engineering has busted out of the pack.

And the lowest-earning?
Early childhood education. That's one of the sad things about these numbers — people who serve others, like teachers, don't make as much as other majors. They do have pretty high job security, but in terms of wages, they're [at] the bottom of the heap.

But these are just average numbers, which can vary widely.
You can take a lower-earning major like education, but if you have a strong career and are in the top 25 percent of your field, you can make as much or more than a business major. People who do well in their careers come out OK, no matter what they take. Reuters

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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
You won't get ahead by intimidating others. Get along with everyone in order to ease your progress.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
You aren't getting an accurate picture of what is going on around you. If you make a point to do your own investigating, you will find the answers you are looking for.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
You are best off channeling your energy into love and romance. Highlight your individuality by attending interesting social events.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Money woes are evident if you are indulgent. Be generous with your time and ideas, but leave your wallet in a safe place to avoid making an unaffordable financial contribution.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Spice up your life. Embark on a short journey or attend an entertaining activity in your community.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
If a radical change is called for, a residential move could be the answer. Research the real estate market in your area.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Shake off depression. Lighten up, get out with friends and have some fun. All work and no play is a recipe for stress and loneliness.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Don't be overwhelmed by all the activity going on around you. Keep your eye on what's most important to you and focus on making good choices.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You may be busy, but that is no reason to neglect your loved ones. A mental challenge is a great way to use up excess energy.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Follow your own path. Doing something because it is expected of you will cause resentment.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
The overwhelming amount of stress in your life should best be dealt with quickly. Don't suffer in silence.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Don't wait for someone else to make choices for you. Physical activity will get your heart pumping and your mind racing. Window-shopping or a long walk will offer fresh air and inspiration. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

2		1			9			
	4		1				2	3
			8	6				1
		9		8		6		
	1		5		6		4	
		7		4		1		
7				2	5			
6	9				8		7	
			9			8		2

	5		3		6		2	
	7	6		8		4		
2	1			4		5		
	4				5	9		
				3				
		2	6				7	
		8		5			6	1
		5		6		8	4	
	6		4		8		9	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

In order to do necessary actions, we must be financially free

Re: 'Moms need money' (Metro, May 13) In response to letter writer, Shifra Freewoman, I more than agree with her that there is value to society for the work mothers and fathers do at home because that work is far beyond any monetary reimbursement. That work is the survival of the species ... and she has the right name: Freewoman. A woman (or man) free to do the necessary actions of cooking and cleaning and chauffeuring and education and training of her/his children into society for the survival of her/his family and society as a whole is nearly impossible to articulate in this letter. In order to do this we must have them financially free. And ONE way is to have a 10-year moratorium on foreclosures for the homeowners and renters to relieve them of the debt burden placed there by the debt-based economy the banks and their lawyers have perpetrated on everyone.
DAVID SNIECKUS

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

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Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.

Crossword

Across
1 Keg stopper
5 Notorious pirate
9 Air-pump meas.
12 Two-piece cookie
13 Farewell
15 Cooper's was high
16 Nonsense poet
17 Thesaurus man
18 Ms. Dinesen
19 Ordinary
21 Soyuz touchdown
23 Grants approval
24 No, to a laird
25 Sedimentary rocks
28 Snow (hyph.)
33 Wahines' dances
34 Heyerdahl's "Kon- --"
35 Winter festival
36 "-- -- Ramblin' Man"
37 Grave risk
38 Funny Charlotte --
39 Frisk about
41 Pharaoh's god
42 Groom excessively
44 Mopped the floor with
46 Brawl
47 Aloha token
48 Complain or complaint
49 Cancel (2 wds.)
53 Whenever
57 Chills
58 Greek column style
60 Mineral supplement
61 Rave's partner
62 Fad
63 Billionth, in combos
64 Louvre display
65 Sacked out
66 Munch

Down
1 Run like heck
2 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
3 First-quarter tide
4 Big ape
5 Gold units
6 Baal and Presley?
7 Groove on
8 Hoofed animal
9 Upright timber
10 Fly high
11 Black as night
14 Piece of cutlery
15 XC
20 So-so grades
22 Wolf, say
25 Gambler's loss?
26 Woody Allen's stock-in-trade
27 Texas tourist site
28 Canned
29 Related
30 Mr. Goldfinger
31 Guanaco kin
32 Retains
34 Monsieur's pate
37 Balboa's ocean
40 Hen
42 Quarry
43 White-water activity
45 New prefix
46 Sold hot goods
48 Pool-table cover
49 Irene of "Fame"
50 Culture medium
51 Fontanne's husband
52 -- -- song (cheaply)
54 Baha'i origin
55 "-- Lisa"
56 Plenty, in verse
59 Seize suddenly

Weekend's answer

B	A	J	A		K	O	A	N		C	A	M	E	
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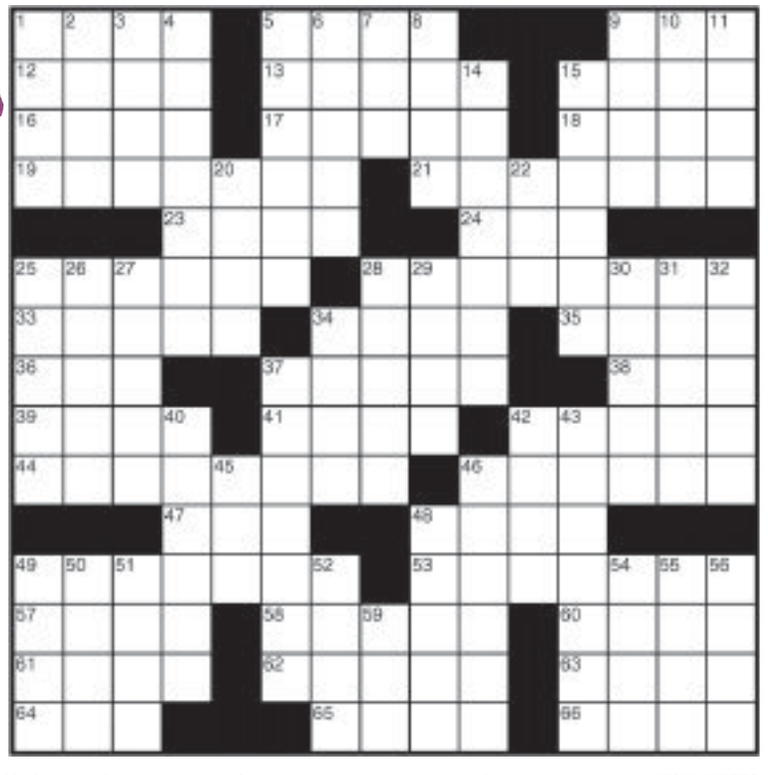

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Rangers' defense will again need to be stout

NHL. The Lightning had no offensive answers in Game 1.

Ryan McDonagh throws a hip check into a member of the Lightning in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals. / GETTY IMAGES

It's not that the Rangers want to play tight playoff games. It's just that they understand how to play in those matches.

"We're just calm out there," Dan Girardi said after the Rangers' 2-1 win over the Lightning in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals. The Rangers lead the best-of-seven one game to none, with Game 2 set for Monday at the Garden (8 p.m., NBCSN).

The Rangers' 13th game in these playoffs was their 13th determined by a single goal. Dating back to Game 4 of the 2014 Stanley Cup Final, the Rangers have played 15 playoff games decided by one goal.

"We're not nervous," Girardi said. "We're like, they tied it up, no big deal. They make a good play on it, make a good shot. We just stick to our game plan. We never deviate from it. I think that's what helps us in the one-goal games."

So, too, does a solid defensive approach.

While much has been written about the Rangers' 2.00 goals scored per game average in these playoffs, what has been overlooked is their 1.62 goals against average in the tournament.

Against the fourth-highest scoring team in the postseason, the defensive structure was a significant component to the Game 1 win. The Lightning were limited to 24 shots on goal and only attempted 50 shots. Steven Stamkos, Tampa's leading goal scorer in the regular season, was held to one shot on goal and two attempted shots in 19:32 of ice time.

"When we're in that position almost every night, you keep your focus on the right things," said Henrik Lundqvist, who made 23 saves in Game 1.

Tampa's lone goal was Ondrej Palat's power play marker at the 6:45 mark of the third period, and underscored the Lightning's offensive depth. Tampa's "Triplets" line of Palat, Tyler Johnson and Nikita Kucherov has been key to the Lightning's success throughout the season and the playoffs.

Johnson tied Stamkos for the team lead in points with 72. Kucherov finished the regular season with 65 points, while Palat had 63.

Johnson's eight goals lead all NHLers in the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

By the numbers

8

Tyler Johnson has eight goals this postseason, more than any other player in the playoffs. Nikita Kucherov has 11 playoff points, just behind Johnson (13).

DENIS GORMAN
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NBA

Final Four set in NBA playoffs

Either the Clippers are epic choke artists or the Rockets are kings of the comeback. Whichever way you slice it, Houston is headed for the Western Conference Finals where it will meet Golden State, beginning Tuesday (9 p.m., ESPN).

The Rockets beat the Clippers, 113-100, Sunday at Toyota Center to advance. The Clippers not only blew a 3-1 series lead to the Rockets but a 19-point lead in Game 6 last Thursday. Game 7 was rarely in doubt for Houston on Sunday afternoon as it build a 15-point lead at one point in the second quarter and owned an 85-68 lead heading into the fourth quarter thanks to James Harden's step-back jumper just ahead of the third quarter buzzer. The Clippers did pull within eight points late in the fourth quarter but Trevor Ariza's corner 3-pointer all but sent L.A. home for the summer.

The No. 1-seeded Warriors, who eliminated the Grizzlies in six games in the semi-finals, swept the four-game regular season series with the Rockets. All four of Golden State's wins over the Rockets came by at least 10 points, but the two clubs haven't squared off since January. In fact, it's been 116 days since their last meeting.

James Harden came up big for Houston in Game 7 on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

No. 2 Cleveland at No. 1 Atlanta (Game 1 Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., TNT)

Atlanta was a ridiculous 35-6 at Philips Arena this season. The Cavs have injury woes to contend with, as Kyrie Irving continues to play through a right knee injury and is not 100 percent. It's no slam dunk for Cleveland to advance.

METRO

3 SPORTS

MLB

Harvey, Mets ready for Cardinals

The first-place Mets (22-16) will shoot for their third consecutive win Monday (7 p.m., SNY) at Citi Field against St. Louis, with Matt Harvey (5-1, 2.31 ERA) slated to get the ball. He will be opposed by John Lackey (2-2, 3.22 ERA). The Cardinals sit atop the NL Central with a 24-12 record. The Mets are fresh off a 5-1 win over the Brewers in which Noah Syndergaard worked 6.0 innings and allowed just one earned run on three hits. Michael Cuddyer had a pair of RBIs in the New York victory.

Visit **Metro.us** to see who the Knicks land in our latest NBA Mock Draft.

American Pharoah will seek to become the first Triple Crown winner in over 30 years on June 6.
GETTY IMAGES

HORSE RACING COULD USE A PHAROAH WIN

OPINION

MARC MALUSIS
@MARCMALUSIS
Marc Malusis is a columnist for Metro New York and a host on WFAN and CBS Sports Radio.

On Saturday, June 6, American Pharoah will attempt to become the first Triple Crown winner since 1978. Over the years, there have been many that have tried and failed.

Spectacular Bid, Pleasant Colony, Alysheba, Sunday Silence, Silver Charm, Real Quiet, Charismatic, War Emblem, Funny Cide, Smarty Jones, Big Brown and California Chrome have all gone post-ward looking to become the 12th Triple Crown winner in horse racing history and they have all failed for one reason or another. Will American Pharoah meet the same demise? Time will tell. But I will say this: There is a reason why they call the Belmont Stakes, the "Test of the Champion."

You are asking a three-year-old to run three races in seven weeks with the last challenge being a mile and a half. That is what makes the Belmont Stakes so grueling— 12 long furlongs. Trainer Bob Baffert said, "Great horses do great things," after watching his colt win the second jewel of the Triple Crown on Saturday — the Preakness in Baltimore. The 62-year-old Baffert has been here before, this is now the fourth time that he will bring a three-year-old to Belmont Park with the crown on the line.

American Pharoah's owner, Ahmed Zayat, said yesterday, "A sport is not a sport without a star." That is very much true. He does have a young star on his hands and the sport is starving for attention.

I have been a fan of the sport since I was 16 years old and made my first trip to the Kentucky Derby with my dad and my Uncle Pete. I am not here to convince anyone that horse racing is the greatest sport out there. That opinion is up to the individual sports fan. But I will say this: On Saturday, the 6th of June, we will all be watching to see if we can witness a little history. That is what sports is all about.

Can he do it? American Pharoah has already shown you that he is at the top of the three-year-old class. So he CAN do it. Will he? Not so sure about that. His final times in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness were rather pedestrian. His final time in the Preakness was really slow, finishing the race in 1:58.46. He relishes the slop as he showed in the Rebel Stakes in Arkansas, so the conditions Saturday aided him. He walked home and was hit 32 times down the stretch of the Kentucky Derby by his jockey Victor Espinoza to grind down Firing Line under the Twin Spires. So the Preakness win looked easier than the Derby, but Pharoah did not show that he relished the classic distances. No matter, he won. But there will be a fair share of skeptics heading into the Belmont.

The sport needs the attention and it needs a star. Many decades ago, horse racing dominated the headlines. That was a different time in America. Can it get back to that? No. But what the sport can do is have a special day, and on that day a special horse might become the star the sport so desperately needs.

NFL. Deflategate saga not going away, sides prepare for long battle

It's more probable than not that Deflategate will drag into the summer months. Reports indicate that Tom Brady's appeal of his four-game suspension will be heard at some point in June. For reference, the Ray Rice appeal took over two months. When the appeal takes place, there is a question of whether or not NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell will serve as arbitrator or a witness.

Tom Brady / GETTY IMAGES

The NFLPA said that it intends to call Goodell as a witness in the appeal hearing.

"This letter will serve as a formal demand that the commissioner follow the [Ray] Rice precedent and appoint an independent person to serve as arbitrator over Mr. Brady's appeal," the NFLPA stated in a letter sent to the NFL's executive vice president of football operations, Troy Vincent. MATT BURKE

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